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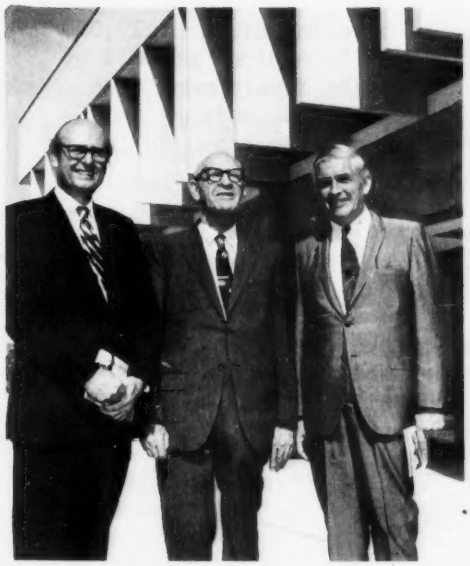
NLM Director Pays Tribute to Former Senator



(From left) Dr. Cummings, Senator Hill, and Dr. Joseph F. Volker, President, University of Alabama in Birmingham

Former United States Senator Lister Hill of Alabama, sponsor of the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965, "has done more to support libraries than any person since the time of Andrew Carnegie," the Director of the National Library of Medicine said in a dedicatory address at the new medical library of the University of Alabama in Birmingham on October 19.

"Because of the farsighted legislation sponsored by Lister Hill," Dr. Martin M. Cummings said in tribute to the distinguished attorney and lawmaker, "all of our nation's medical libraries provide free medical library services in the American tradition of the public library system envisioned by Carnegie."

He said that Senator Hill's interest and inspiration in making it possible for 300,000 U. S. physicians to have access to the world's medical information came from his father, Dr. Luther Hill, a distinguished Alabama surgeon with an "Osierian love" for medical literature.

"Whereas Dr. Hill was trying to keep ahead of the game, physicians today do well to keep up with current advances in medical practice," Dr. Cummings said. "An active service-oriented medical library can do much to assist in this effort. Man can absorb and retain only a limited amount of information. Some are blessed with a greater capacity for this than others. All men, however, can learn the techniques of finding information and, thanks to Senator Hill, we may all freely have access to medical information in our libraries."

The former senator was present at the ceremonies when the new addition to the medical school was named the Lister Hill Library of Health Sciences in his honor. The librarian is Mrs. Sara Brown.

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NLM Regent Speaks on Communications

The National Library of Medicine's Lister Hill National Center for Biological Communications should play an important role in preserving educational resources and avoiding duplication of medical faculty and teaching programs, William G. Anlyan, M.D., vice president for health affairs of Duke University, has told the Association of American Medical Colleges.

In proposing an entering class of 25,000 new students in U. S. medical schools by 1985, he stressed the development of a biomedical communications network to provide immediate on-line consultation for practicing physicians.

"The practitioner should also have immediate access to a markedly improved information storage and retrieval system using multimedia," Dr. Anlyan said in the chairman's address on October 28 at the annual AAMC meeting in Washington.

He proposed that AAMC appoint two *ad hoc* committees, one to develop the relations between academic medical centers and the Lister Hill Center, and the other "to take a fresh look" at continuing medical education with the cooperation of medical educators and experts in multimedia information storage and retrieval systems.

Dr. Anlyan, who was succeeded as AAMC chairman by Russell A. Nelson, M.D., of Baltimore, is 1971-72 chairman of the NLM Board of Regents.

WHO Convenes Medical Educators

Leading European authorities in medical education from 23 countries, meeting in Cracow, Poland, early in November under the auspices of the World Health Organization, face many of the same problems that are present in the United States, according to NLM Director Martin M. Cummings, U. S. adviser to the group.

Shortage of physicians, reduced financial support of medical schools, and efforts to improve curricula are among the problems this country shares with European medical schools, he said. The regional meeting was conducted by a WHO working group on communication in medical education.

Dr. Cummings, who reported briefly to the meeting on methods of international communication in medical education, said he was impressed by the "mature presentations" made by European medical students who participated in the discussions. Continuing education as "the key to new knowledge," he said, including the collection, analysis, and sharing of information, was among the principal general recommendations accepted by the conference.

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(WHO, from Page 2)

In a major report on the present state of communications in medical education in Europe, Dr. J. Ellis, editor of the *British Journal of Medical Education*, strongly urged clarification of the terminology used by medical educators.

"The greatest single contribution to the betterment of communications in medical education would be the creation of an accepted common terminology," Dr. Ellis said, "and, failing that, the establishment of an attitude of mind which required the detailed clarification of all terms used."

All of the participants shared the view that medical education must be relevant to health care and public health systems. The formal report of the working group will be presented to the meeting of the World Medical Association in September 1972.

NLM Training Program

Applications are being accepted for the 1972/73 National Library of Medicine Postgraduate Library Associate Training Program in Biomedical Communications, a one-year program of intensive training in modern medical library science. All applicants are required to file an NLM Information Sheet. Deadline for filing applications is March 1, 1972. All applicants must be United States citizens. Requests for application materials and further information should be directed to: Training Officer, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

Polish Scientists Visit NLM

Dr. Witold Rudowski and Dr. Janusz Jeljaszewicz, two of Poland's leading scientists, who represent Polish interests in the Library's Special Foreign Currency Public Law 480 Program, visited NLM on October 15. Dr. Rudowski, a surgeon, is Chairman of the Scientific Council to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare in Poland, and Dr. Jeljaszewicz, a microbiologist at the State Institute of Hygiene in Warsaw, is the Chairman of the Coordinating Commission for Polish-American Scientific Collaboration.

(From left) Dr. Rudowski, Dr. Brand, and Dr. Jeljaszewicz

Both scientists held a series of discussions on the Library's expanding PL 480 program in Poland with Dr. L. L. Langley, Associate Director for Extramural Programs, and Dr. Jeanne Brand, Chief, International Programs Division. Dr. Rudowski also attended the annual meeting of the American College of Surgeons in Atlantic City, where he was made an Honorary Fellow of the College.

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(Polish Scientists, from Page 3)

The NLM Public Law 480 program utilizes excess foreign currencies available in Israel, Poland, Yugoslavia, and certain other countries to fund a variety of scholarly writing and publication projects, including the translation of significant monographic studies, projects in the history of medicine and the history of medical research, the preparation and publication of analytic critical reviews of recent developments and emerging trends in health science fields. In FY 1971, the Library sponsored 26 such projects in Poland and awarded $1,244,635 equivalent in Polish zlotys to fund the program.

Personnel

Dr. Roger W. Dahlen joined the staff of the Extramural Programs on August 27 as Chief of the Research, Training, and Publications Division. He was formerly Health Scientist Administrator in the Training Grants and Awards Branch of the National Heart and Lung Institute.

Mrs. Nina Woo Matheson came to NLM's Extramural Programs as a Project Officer in July. Most recently, Mrs. Matheson was Librarian and Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri's Missouri Institute of Psychiatry in St. Louis.

NLM Issues Anniversary Report

Substantial increases in interlibrary loans, journal articles indexed, and literature searches distributed for Fiscal Year 1970-1971 are described in the Library's 135th anniversary report. The report, which also marked the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the present building in Bethesda, revealed that reader requests filled for the year rose to 83,585 and additions to the NLM collections brought the total number of items to 1,347,521. Historic cover notes in the report review the Library's growth from its inception in 1836 in the office of Dr. Joseph Lovell, the Army's first surgeon general.

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